

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA**

Peter F. Wingard )  
                    )  
                    )  
Plaintiff,        )  
                    )  
                    )  
vs.                )  
                    ) Civil Action File No.:  
North Georgia Auto Brokers, Inc.     ) \_\_\_\_\_  
                    )  
                    )  
Defendant.        )  
                    )  
\_\_\_\_\_

**COMPLAINT**

Plaintiff Peter F. Wingard (“Plaintiff”) hereby files this Complaint against North Georgia Auto Brokers, Inc. (“Defendant”), and respectfully alleges as follows:

**PARTIES, JURISDICTION, AND VENUE**

1.

Plaintiff Peter F. Wingard is a resident of Georgia.

2.

Upon information and belief, Defendant North Georgia Auto Brokers is located at 3515 Stone Mountain Hwy., Snellville, GA 30078 and has done business in this district at all times material hereto.

3.

This is an action for patent infringement arising under the patent laws of the United States, 35 U.S.C. §§ 1, *et seq.*

4.

Subject matter jurisdiction in this Court is proper under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1338(a).

5.

Venue is proper in this Court under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391 and 1400.

6.

The Court has personal jurisdiction over North Georgia Auto Brokers *inter alia* because North Georgia Auto Brokers resides in this district and because a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claim occurred in this District.

**COUNT I: PATENT INFRINGEMENT**  
**(U.S. PATENT No. 5,530,431)**

7.

Mr. Wingard pioneered the technology behind keyless ignition systems.

8.

Keyless ignition systems enable engines in vehicles to be started with the use of a coded key. Generally, keyless ignition is achieved when a “key fob” transmits a unique code to a vehicle’s receiver and the unique code transmitted by the key fob matches the unique code stored in the vehicle’s memory.

9.

On June 25, 1996, the United States Patent and Trademark Office duly and legally issued U.S. Patent No. 5,530,431 (“the ‘431 patent”), entitled “Anti-Theft

Device For Protecting Electronic Equipment” to Mr. Wingard. A true and correct copy of the ’431 Patent is attached as Exhibit A.

10.

The ’431 Patent is directed to apparatuses and methods for providing security for electronic equipment. In particular, the ’431 Patent is directed to a method to secure electronic equipment by configuring the electronic equipment to power up only in the presence of a unique code transmitted to the electronic equipment from an external source.

11.

Mr. Wingard has been at all relevant times hereto and remains the owner of all rights, title, and interest in the ’431 Patent.

12.

The ’431 Patent is valid.

13.

The ’431 Patent is enforceable.

14.

Upon information and belief, North Georgia Auto Brokers uses, sells, offers to sell, and/or imports vehicles incorporating keyless ignition systems (i.e., systems that enable engines in vehicles to be started with the use of a coded key) (hereinafter, “Accused Products”). For example, North Georgia Auto Brokers currently advertises on its website over 68 vehicles for at least 18 different branded

cars, some of which, on information and belief, includes keyless ignition systems.

See, e.g., Ex. B.

15.

Upon information and belief, the Accused Products embody and/or practice the ‘431 Patent’s claimed apparatus, system, and/or method for providing security for electronic equipment.

16.

North Georgia Auto Brokers has infringed, and is continuing to infringe, the ‘431 Patent by using, importing, selling and/or offering to sell the Accused Products within the United States, and/or by contributing to and/or inducing such infringement.

17.

Upon information and belief, by using, importing, selling, and/or offering to sell the Accused Products in the United States, North Georgia Auto Brokers, with specific intent, has actively induced others to infringe the ‘431 Patent under 35 U.S.C. § 271(b).

18.

Upon information and belief, an Accused Product constitutes a material part of the invention claimed in the ‘431 Patent.

19.

Upon information and belief, North Georgia Auto Brokers has both the knowledge and intent that the Accused Products that it uses, imports, sells, and/or offers to sell in the United States will be used in an infringing manner, and North Georgia Auto Brokers encourages and promotes the Accused Products to be used in an infringing manner.

20.

Upon information and belief, North Georgia Auto Brokers is using, importing, selling, and/or offering to sell in the United States the Accused Products with knowledge that (1) the Accused Products are especially made or especially adapted for use in an infringement of the ‘431 Patent, and (2) the Accused Products are not staple articles or commodities of commerce suitable for noninfringing use. North Georgia Auto Brokers is therefore liable as a contributory infringer under 35 U.S.C. § 271(c).

21.

Upon information and belief, North Georgia Auto Brokers had actual knowledge of the ‘431 Patent before the filing of this Complaint. More specifically, on or about July 9, 2014 Plaintiff sent a letter to North Georgia Auto Brokers informing North Georgia Auto Brokers of its infringement of the ‘431 Patent.

22.

Upon information and belief, North Georgia Auto Brokers' acts of direct and/or indirect infringement of the '431 Patent are and have been willful, have caused and will continue to cause North Georgia Auto Brokers to suffer substantial damages, and have caused and will continue to cause Plaintiff to suffer irreparable harm unless Defendant is permanently enjoined from continuing its infringement.

23.

Plaintiff has no adequate remedy at law.

24.

Plaintiff seeks (1) damages adequate to compensate it for Defendant's infringement of the '431 Patent, (2) treble damages; (3) attorneys' fees; (4) cost; and (5) a preliminary and thereafter permanent injunction.

#### **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully prays for the following relief against Defendant:

- (a) a judgment that Defendant infringed the '431 Patent;
- (b) that Defendant is preliminarily and permanently enjoined from further infringement pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 283;

- (c) that Defendant be ordered pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 284 to account to and pay Plaintiff for the actual damages suffered by Plaintiff as a result of Defendant's acts of infringement of the '431 Patent;
- (d) That Defendant be ordered to pay Plaintiff treble damages pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §284;
- (e) That Defendant be ordered to pay prejudgment interest pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §284;
- (f) That Defendant be ordered to pay all costs associated with this action pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §284;
- (g) That Defendant be ordered to pay Plaintiff's attorneys' fees pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §285; and
- (h) That Plaintiff is granted such other and additional relief as the Court deems just and proper.

**DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

Plaintiff demands a trial by jury on all issues so triable as of right and plead in this case.

Respectfully submitted this 21<sup>st</sup> day of July, 2014.

/s/ Charlena Thorpe  
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